

**“Getting Hold of your ELL Data: Construction and Use of a
Database to Coordinate an ELL Program”
2008 OELAS Conference
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Presentations:

**Dr. David Fischer
Alchesay High School ELL Coordinator**

**Mrs. Donna Craft
School Improvement/Curriculum Specialist
Whiteriver USD #20**

Summary: This presentation will discuss the construction and use of a FileMaker Pro (8.5) database to coordinate the identification, assessment, placement, and reassessment processes of an ELL program for a high school and/or district in compliance with new state laws. Dr. David Fischer and Donna Craft will show how individual student records are created and maintained with data from Home Language Surveys, AZELLA assessments, program placement, and the generation of state forms for individual and batch creation. Dr. Fischer will highlight how to search for students for placement in the ELD classes, assessment, and teacher-friendly printouts of rosters with ELL assessment data. The workshop will be interactive with the database, demonstrating how schools and districts can solve coordination problems with solid data usage. Integration with existing district student data management software databases will be discussed and how a separate database augments the coordination of the program. Donna Craft will discuss how the database solves district-wide needs of ELL coordination.

Outline of Presentation:

- I. Why the need for a database?
- II. Historical development and construction of the database
- III. Current technical considerations of the database

IV. Visual overview of the database and its components

V. Data entry, sorting, lists, printouts

VI. ELL program forms/letters

VII. Staff development and training with the database

VIII. Database benefits for ELL program coordination

IX. Audience questions and answers

Biographical information:

Dr. David Fischer has served on the faculty of Alchesay High School with the Whiteriver Unified School District teaching ESL and language arts instruction from 1984-1995 and directed the high school's instructional technology and ELL programs since 1995. Currently, he's the coordinator of Student Data Services. He has also taught ESL/Indian educational setting at the elementary, junior high, high school, and community college levels since 1977. He holds an MA in TESOL from Northern Arizona University. His doctorate is in child and youth studies with a specialization in educational technology. He is also an adjunct faculty member since 1992 with the University of Phoenix in SEI, ESL, and technology for continuing education.

Ms. Donna Craft, B.S., M.Ed. has been employed with the Whiteriver district for 23+ years; currently the School Improvement/Curriculum Specialist with the district. She served as language arts teacher and chairperson for Canyon Day Junior High for 18 years; coordinated ESL efforts at that school and worked on the district Cumulative File Review Team with Dr. Fischer. She coordinates the FileMaker Pro efforts at each of the school sites and provides training when needed to help teachers maintain "clean" data.

Contact information:

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Technical information about FileMaker Pro (From the company at
http://www.filemaker.com/products/fmpa/tech_specs.html

System requirements

Product Activation is required for use of this product. Activation may be completed by Internet or telephone.

Mac OS X 10.5

- PowerPC G4 (867MHz+), PowerPC G5, or Intel-based Mac
- 512 MB of RAM
- CD-ROM drive

Mac OS X 10.4.8 *

- PowerPC G3, G4, G5 or Intel-based Mac
- 256 MB of RAM
- CD-ROM drive

Windows XP Professional, Home Edition (Service Pack 2) *

- Pentium III 500MHz or higher
- 256MB of RAM
- CD-ROM drive
- SVGA (800 x 600) or higher resolution video adapter and display

Windows Vista Ultimate, Business, Home *

- 800 MHz 32-bit (x86) or higher
- 512 MB of RAM
- SVGA (800x600) or higher resolution video adapter and display
- CD-ROM drive

Compatibility

FileMaker Pro 9 databases use the same file format (.fp7) as FileMaker Pro 8.x and FileMaker Pro 7, therefore databases can easily be shared between these three versions. Features specific to the newer versions, are only supported in the newer versions (e.g. The new External SQL Data Source feature, introduced with FileMaker Pro 9, is only supported by FileMaker Pro 9.)

NOTE: There is an incompatibility with FileMaker 9 and Safari 3 Public Beta. Please check the FileMaker Knowledge Base [for more information](#).

Additional requirements (all platforms)

- Networking: TCP/IP: limited to nine simultaneous FileMaker client connections; each client requires a licensed copy of the software; See FileMaker Server 9 for increased capacity.
* Any computer accessing FileMaker Pro files over a network will need to have a licensed installation of versions 7, 8.x or 9 of FileMaker Pro or FileMaker Pro Advanced.
- Instant Web Publishing: A host computer with continuous access to the Internet or intranet via TCP/IP (FileMaker Pro 9 Advanced can manage up to five simultaneous Instant Web Publishing sessions. See FileMaker Server 9 Advanced for increased capacity.)
- Web browser requirements: To use a database shared with Instant Web Publishing, Windows web users need Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.x or Firefox 1.x on Windows. On the Mac OS, web users need Safari 1.2.x (Mac OS X 10.3), Safari 2.0.x (Mac OS X 10.4) or Firefox 1.x only. On both platforms, some earlier versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer and Safari are blocked. Other Mozilla family browsers are not blocked but are unsupported and users will receive a dialog encouraging them to upgrade to a supported browser. JavaScript must be enabled in the web browser.

Pricing from the company can be found at:

<https://store.filemaker.com/>

Look for educational discounts and bundling of the software licenses with the server software.